

### The All Hazards NOAA Weather Radio (NWR)

NWR is an all-hazards public warning system, broadcasting forecast, warnings and emergency information 24 hours a day directly to the public. The recent trend away from wired phones often makes sophisticated systems like Reverse-911 ineffective in alerting the public.

“All Hazards” messages include:

**Natural Hazards** - tornado, hurricane, floods, severe thunderstorms, earthquakes, etc.

**Technological Accidents** - chemical release, oil spill, nuclear power plant emergencies, maritime accidents, aircraft accidents, train derailments, etc.

**AMBER alerts** - AMBER alerts are issued where AMBER plans are in place. Amber plans are voluntary partnerships between law enforcement agencies and broadcasters to activate an urgent bulletin in the most serious child abduction cases.

Each locality establishes its own AMBER criteria. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children suggests 3 criteria that should be met before an Alert is activated.

1. Law enforcement confirms a child has been abducted.
2. Law enforcement believes the child is in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
3. There is enough descriptive information about the child, abductor, and/or suspect's vehicle to believe an immediate broadcast alert will help.

#### **Terrorist attacks**

Weather radios equipped with a special alarm tone feature can sound an alert and give you immediate information about life-threatening situations. During an emergency, National Weather Service forecasters will interrupt routine weather radio programming and send out the special tone that activates weather radios in the listening area.

#### **Who Needs A NOAA Weather Radio?**

Public safety officials agree: the receivers should be standard equipment in every home. They are especially valuable in places that are entrusted with public safety, including hospitals, schools, places of worship, office buildings and any other public-gathering places. These radios can be programmed for your area only. These radios are sometimes referred to as **S.A.M.E. Specific Area Message Encoding**. These radios are available from many different vendors and locations. For further information go to the National Weather Service web site at [www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/allhazard.htm](http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/allhazard.htm)